



New England includes many ecosystems that, by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value, or proximity to large populations, hold a special significance to us. EPA New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these special places. Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community-based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these areas.

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Fact Sheet/March 2000

Lake Champlain Basin



Photo: Crown Point Bridge

What Makes Lake Champlain Basin Special?

- Lake Champlain is a rich biological resource with the unparalleled beauty of mountains and rural agricultural and small town landscapes.
- It is the largest lake in New England and has been designated as part of a United Nations Biosphere Reserve. Through the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act, Congress has recognized the lake as a place worthy of protection.
- Tourism generates \$2 billion for the region.

Why Does Lake Champlain Need Special Attention?

- The current level of phosphorus in the lake is too high.
- Persistent toxic contaminants found in the lake need to be prevented and controlled.
- Discourage further introduction and spread of nuisance, non-native aquatic plants and animals, such as zebra mussels, water chestnuts, and milfoil.

What Are the Long Term Goals?

- To reduce phosphorus in the lake by 56.8 metric tons by 2018.
- To prevent and control toxic contaminants entering the lake.
- Minimize the spread and introduction of nuisance species.

Progress/Goals for the Future

What Progress Has Been Made?

- Champlain 2000, a new partnership with WPTZ TV, airs weekly news segments on issues facing the lake (Lake Champlain Basin Program-LCBP, WPTZ-TV).
- 20 volunteer watershed groups are working to protect the Lake and its tributaries, preventing further pollution to the lake.
- EPA provided Middlebury, VT with \$5 million to help upgrade its wastewater treatment system.
- Restoration of approximately 450 acres of wetlands since 1977 (USFWS, NY, VT, EPA, LCBP).
- Restoration of approximately 50 miles of stream corridor since 1995 (USFWS, LCBP).
- A 16.2 metric ton reduction in agricultural phosphorus loading (VT, NY, USDA, EPA).
- \$1.84 million of EPA funds have been used to support the activities of LCBP during 1999.
- \$25 million in state and federal funding provided to support water system improvements.

What Are The Major Actions Planned for 2000?

- Assess feasibility of accelerating the phosphorus reduction goal date to 2009 (instead of 2018) to facilitate implementation of nonpoint source reduction efforts.
- Help local watershed associations improve water quality and build capacity in organizations.
- Leverage federal funds to address phosphorus levels, toxic reduction and nuisance aquatics.

Lake Champlain Basin



Watersheds

About the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP):

The federal Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990 created the LCBP to develop a comprehensive pollution prevention, restoration and control plan for the lake. Plan implementation by the LCBP is guided by the Lake Champlain Steering Committee, which represents diverse lake and basin interests. The program is administered by the US EPA and the states of New York and Vermont, and receives input from Vermont, New York and Quebec Citizen Advisory Committees, a Technical Advisory Committee, and an Education and Outreach Committee. Funding for the LCBP is received from the US EPA.

Who are the Partners?

EPA New England • EPA Region 2 • VT Agency of Natural Resources • VT Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Markets • NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation • NY Dept. of Economic Development • NY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets • Province of Quebec • USFWS • USDA • USGS • NPS • NOAA • Environmental organizations • Watershed associations • Lake Champlain Research Consortium • VT/NY/QUE Citizen Advisory Committees • Lake Champlain Chambers of Commerce • Lake Champlain Basin Science Center • Lake Champlain Maritime Museum • Champlain Basin Educational Initiative • 232 towns • Universities in NY/VT, WPTZ

► Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)

(802) 655-6382

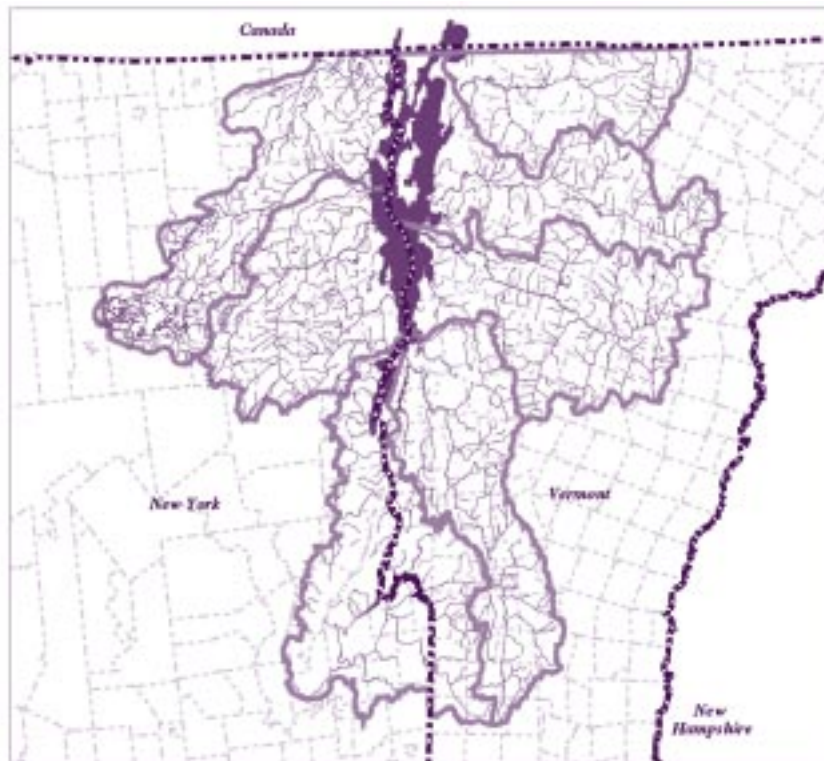
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Lake Champlain Basin

- Lake Champlain
- ▲ Surface Hydrography
- ▲ State Boundary
- ▲ Town Boundary



0 10 20 30 Miles

This map produced in Albers Equal Area Projection on January 21, 1999. U.S. EPA Region 2, Boston, MA.



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.